

AUG 25 2016

EPA-REGION 10

U.S. EPA  
ATTN: Harbor Comments  
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500  
Portland, OR 97205

I have some serious concerns with the cleanup plan for the Willamette River recently proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency. It involves dredging up parts of the river and removing the hazardous materials to a landfill. The cost of the project is estimated to be between \$746 million and \$1.4 billion. I'm retired military and I've worked for all levels of government from local to federal. My experience causes me to believe that the EPA project as proposed will take longer than anticipated, maybe even decades, and end up costing local residents and businesses much more.

It also bothers me that the EPA is ignoring the most recent data on the condition of the Willamette and is instead relying on data from 2004. A study done in 2014 showed a 40% reduction in contamination in the river. This indicates that the river's own natural processes are working to solve the problem without drastic measures like dredging. Moving forward with any kind of contamination cleanup should be handled in the most cost-effective manner. The Army Corps of Engineers has suggested starting with the least invasive approach instead of what the EPA is proposing, and I fully agree with this. The Army Corps of Engineers has proven expertise and listening to them seems like the most logical approach. Allowing the natural restoration to continue, and only interfering when necessary in limited areas, instead of unearthing parts of the riverbed in and around the port, makes the most sense.

This approach is better for the river and for the residents and businesses in Portland without any politics involved. The beauty of the Northwest is the most important resource we have. I've lived in Portland a very long time and I don't want to see our economy hurt by the EPA's river cleanup plan. It's important that we incorporate as much non-government, local input and expertise into any plans to restore the Willamette as possible. The current EPA plan does not do this. It needs to be re-evaluated and revised.

Sincerely,

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